The sixth meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts during the fiscal year 1918 was held at its office at 1729 New York Avenue, northwest, Washington, D. C. on Friday, December 21, 1917.

The following members were present:

Charles Moore, Chairman;

Frederick Law Olmsted;

Herbert Adams;

J. Alden Weir;

Charles A. Platt;

Wm. Mitchell Kendall;

also Colonel C. S. Ridley, U. S. Army, the Secretary and Executive Officer.

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a. m. and immediately proceeded to the business before it.

1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING: The minutes of the meeting held on November 16, 1917 were approved.

2. EMPLOYMENT OF TEMPORARY STENOGRAPHER AND TYPEWRITER: The employment by the Secretary of a temporary stenographer and typewriter for a period of about a month with compensation not to exceed $100.00 per month was approved.

3. LETTER TO THE PUBLIC BUILDINGS COMMISSION: Mr. Moore laid before the Commission a draft of a proposed letter to the Public Buildings Commission, constituting the Commission's advice to that Commission as required under the law in connection with the forthcoming report of that Commission to Congress on the eventual housing of all Government activities in Government-owned buildings in

the city of Washington. Copies of this draft had already been furnished each member. A number of suggestions for minor modifications in the text were made, and, with these incorporated, the letter was approved.

4. MERIDIAN HILL PARK: Colonel Ridley laid before the Commission the following features of the design of Meridian Hill Park: - 1st, details of elevations of the terrace end with alternate plans; 2d, alternative elevations of south side of the great terrace; 3d, preliminary planting schemes for planting along 16th street; and 4th, north side elevations and grading plans.

Regarding the first, the Commission modified previous approval of the main elevations by suggesting the elimination of windows at the sides of the entrance. In the plans, the comfort stations were eliminated and direct entrance with the right hand turn approved. The grade of secondary levels were suggested to be lowered if found necessary.

Second - The scheme bringing ramps from ends up to the center was approved, and the general treatment for terrace facade was commended. It was suggested that comfort stations be located under the center of the terrace and service space, accessible to the street, under east end, and that possibly fountains be placed at the terrace ends.

Third - The general indications of planting compositions was approved with the suggestion that the planting be, as far as practical, for immediate effect, and evergreen material should predominate. It was also suggested that the balustrade line of the upper terrace wall be unobstructed in the center, but broken vertically at parapet ends. Vines should be used more freely on lower walls than upper walls, and that if Boston Ivy is used it should be used sparsely and kept under control. The cedars to be purchased should be from well-pruned

nursery stock so as to avoid replacement. Material mentioned for this planting by Mr. Peaslee and Mr. Small, who were present in conference, was approved.

Fourth - It was agreed that the slope of Euclid Street should not affect the interior of the park, and the section showing general park walls on same levels was approved. The pavilion, wall and clairvoyee treatment along the north side was approved in general, subject to future detailed submissions.

In reply to inquiries as to the character and standard of the work, the opinion was expressed that the park in design and execution should set a high standard for the country, and that continuation of the high type of concrete work was very desirable.

5. ERICSSON MEMORIAL: At 10 o'clock Mr. J. G. Bergquist and Mr. John Aspegren, representatives of the John Ericsson Monument Commission, who were later joined by Mr. Adolf Eckberg, Chairman of the Advisory Committee, appeared by appointment before the Commission for a conference with regard to a site for the proposed Ericsson Memorial. This committee had previously selected a location immediately across from the Pan-American Union along Seventeenth Street as their choice, and the Commission of Fine Arts had been having this under consideration. The Advisory Committee had recently, however, completed the collection from private sources of $25,000 additional to the $35,000 appropriated by Congress, and were ready to have the question of site definitely decided upon in order that work on the selection of a design might be started. They were advised that the Commission could not approve a site opposite the Pan-American Union building as a suitable one for their memorial, and were informed that a far better site would be on Reservation 110, along north B Street, immediately to the west of the Pan-American Union grounds. During the ensuing discussion the representa-

tives also inquired about the possibility of using the circle to the south of the Lincoln Memorial, at one time considered available by the Commission of Fine Arts. With regard to this last site, it was suggested that Mr. Bacon, as designer of the Lincoln Memorial, should be asked for his opinion on the arranging of a group of memorials in the vicinity of the Lincoln Memorial, of which the Ericsson might be one. The committee were pleased with this suggestion, and Mr. Olmsted was requested to get in touch with Mr. Bacon for his opinion in the matter.

Some further discussion ensued as to the best method of selecting the artist, and the necessity of having a competent expert advisor if a competition is resorted to. The committee themselves were very anxious to have a competition. Upon their request, the names of Peirce Anderson, William A. Boring, Daniel Chester French, and Cass Gilbert were given them from whom a selection could be made for architectural advisor.

A telegram received from Mr. Axel S. Hedman signed as the Chairman of the Expert Advisory Committee of the John Ericsson Memorial was read during the discussion. Mr. Hedman warned that the committee appearing before the Commission at this time might not be qualified to act, and that the Commission should postpone final action until they were assured of the standing of those consulting them. Mr. Eckberg informed the Commission that at a recent meeting of their Advisory Commission, all committees had been abolished, and that Mr. Hedman was not chairman of the Advisory Committee any more.

No definite decision was reached as to the site, which is to be taken up again after Mr. Bacon has been heard from, but the Commission recommended careful consideration of the triangular reservation at 18th and B Streets, because conditions there are fixed.

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6. MEADE MEMORIAL: At 12 o'clock Governor Brumbaugh of the State of Pennsylvania and Chairman of the Meade Memorial Commission of the State of Pennsylvania, accompanied by John B. Patrick of that Commission, Frank Miles Day, architectural advisor, Mr. Grant Simon, of the firm of Simon and Bassett, architects, and Mr. Charles Grafly, sculptor, appeared before the Commission by appointment and submitted an advanced small-scale model of the Meade Memorial, in which certain modifications previously suggested by the Commission on another model had been made. The Governor said that the model had been before the Commission about ten days ago and that it was satisfactory to them in its present form; but that they wanted the Commission's opinion again before proceeding further. The Commission felt that the design had been improved, especially in detail. One or two details, however, were pointed out as needing further study, particular emphasis being laid on a reduction of the number of steps in the base, and the simplification of the top which by its over-elaboration pulled attention away from the statue. The criticisms of the Commission were all towards simplification. These suggestions, it was understood, are to be embodied in a larger-scale model, and with this understanding the small-scale model was approved. Mr. Day promised to send Mr. Kendall, for the consideration of the three architect members of the Commission, a three-quarter scale drawing of the present design so that the suggestions of the Commission could be before them in a more concrete form.

7. PROPOSED NEW BUILDING FOR NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCE: Dr. George E. Hale, representing the National Academy of Science in Washington, appeared before the Commission for an informal discussion of a site and design for a proposed new building for the National Academy of Sciences in Washington. Dr. Hale went into the history and functions of the Academy at some length, and also exhibited and

explained a tentative plan which had at one time been prepared for such a building. He stated that the design for the building was then intended to be Gothic, but that to harmonize with the general scheme of Washington it would probably have to be prepared along classic or semi-classic lines. This plan was merely preliminary, and for no particular site. The Commission felt that a building of proper design for the purposes of the National Academy of Science could be placed either along the Mall or along north B Street.

8. BUILDING FOR ARLINGTON FARMS: After a short interval for lunch, the Commission met Mr. Betts of the Department of Agriculture who desired to have their advice with respect to a design for a building which was ultimately to form part of a group in the Arlington Farms project. The design shown was not to scale, and rendered merely in the perspective. No plan had been prepared showing the proposed locations of the various buildings with relation to each other, Mr. Betts stating that there had not been time for this; it was the intention under existing appropriation to construct this building, and to have the general plan prepared later on with this building already erected. The Commission felt that the proportions of the plan were good, but they could not approve the design which was not good, and also because no general plan for the whole project was available.

The Commission recognized the urgency under the existing appropriation for having this building quickly constructed, and the members told Mr. Betts that they would be glad to assist his Department individually and collectively in the preparation of the general plan and the design of the individual units in question. This matter has been continued informally since the meeting.

There being no further business to come before the meeting the Commission adjourned at 3:30 o'clock, subject to the call of the Chairman.

Approved: Charles Moore CHAIRMAN.

COL. U.S.A. SECRETARY & EXECUTIVE OFFICER.